Compassionate appointments in South-Central Railway

2243. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of compassionate appointments pending in the South-Central Railway for more than two years;

(b) whether Government are aware of the Supreme Court ruling that compassionate appointments should not be made in ordinary cases and these should be made only on exceptional grounds;

(c) if so, what are those grounds and how the Ministry is dealing with this subject; and

(d) the steps taken to clear the long pending compassionate appointment cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) There are 202 cases of compassionate appointments pending for more than two years, as on 30.06.2001, in the South Central Railway;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement have made it clear that, as a rule, appointments in the public services should be made strictly on the basis of open invitation of applications and merit. However, there are some exceptions to this general rule carved out in the interests of justice. One such exception is in favour of the dependents of an employee dying in harness and leaving his family in penury and without any means of livelihood. The whole object of granting compassionate appointment is thus to enable the family to tide over the sudden crisis. These rulings of Hon'ble Supreme Court have been circulated to all Zonal Railways/Production Units for guidance. However, unlike other Ministries/Departments, Ministry of Railways is an operating organisation employing huge manpower. Consequently, the number of compassionate appointments to be given are also correspondingly large. Compassionate appointment cases are, therefore, considered on the merits of each case.

(d) Out of 202 cases referred to in para (a) above, 83 cases are of

illiterate female candidates who are awaiting appointment for want of suitable vacancies. Since these candidates ordinarily want posting at the same place where the ex-employee was working, it becomes difficult to locate such vacancies. However, efforts are being made to adjust such candidates at the places of their choice, as far as possible. Besides this, there are 27 cases which are subjudice in various Courts. The balance 92 cases are pending either for want of documents from the applicants, disputes amongst the claimants etc. or are at various stages of progress. Efforts are being made to expedite finalization of such cases.

Sheoraphuly-Tarakeshwar double line project

2244. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the project for laying double line between Sheoraphuly and Tarakeshwar;

(b) how much more time it would take to complete the project; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The patch doubling of Sheoraphuli-Nalikul section has been taken up as Phase-I of Sheoraphuli-Tarakeshwar doubling. The work is in progress between Sheoraphuli and Diara. This Phase will be progressed to completion in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Connivance between Touts and Railway Employees in Rail Reservation

†2245. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 736 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2001 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway employees connive with touts, in order to get undue advantages; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.